

USAG Wiesbaden



Photos by Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes

Responding to a simulated enemy attack on their convoy, Spc. Brandon Bobo of V Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 205th Military Intelligence Brigade, fires at attackers as HDD's Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alvin A. Pray reload during the brigade's "Victory Challenge" exercise at the British training area Normandy Barracks in Sennelager May 2-13.

V Corps Soldiers take on realistic scenarios

Intelligence brigade headquarters trains in Sennelager for future missions

By Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes

V Corps Public Affairs Office

Leaders and Soldiers from V Corps' 205th Military Intelligence Brigade were fighting for their lives in a training exercise May 2-13 at the British training area called Normandy Barracks in Sennelager, Germany.

The brigade, headquartered in Wiesbaden, was in Sennelager for their iteration of "Victory Challenge," a corps program that requires units to prepare for future missions by training on a series of several realistic scenarios that reflect what they might encounter on those missions.

Before Operations Iraqi

Freedom and Enduring Freedom, brigade officials said, training often consisted primarily of firing individual and crew-served weapons. Now units must train in situations that relate to obstacles and problems they might face in Iraq, honing their reactions to such things as improvised explosive devices, snipers, civil disturbances, moral dilemmas, ambushes and convoy attacks, they added.

"The training has changed dramatically since before the war because of the complexity of the enemy, and (since) our trip from the first rotation of OIF, so we are using lessons learned to help prepare our Soldiers for future missions,"

said Capt. Stanley Florkowski, 205th operations officer. "I feel tremendously more confident in the unit since the first time. Now I know we are about three times as prepared as the first time we went."

During one training convoy, a group of brigade Soldiers rode quietly, scanning the horizon for possible problems. All of a sudden, three shots were heard from a distance. One Soldier in the convoy spotted one of the troops who was role-playing as a weapon-toting enemy insurgent.

"Sniper," shouted the Soldier in the convoy.

The shout was followed by a frantic series of unfortunate events. As Soldiers dismounted

their vehicles, two were counted as casualties. A simple convoy had turned deadly and decisions had to be made.

The Soldiers had to quickly and properly identify the threat and situation, get combat life-savers to the wounded, return fire, call in a situation report to higher headquarters and set up a defensive perimeter around their convoy.

As the Soldiers scrambled to meet those challenges, a mortar round was heard whizzing over them and hit the second vehicle in the convoy, sending up a plume of purple smoke. As a result of the simulated attack, one Soldier was declared an open chest wound casualty while another was said

to be bleeding heavily due to a severed arm.

This type of training is a rarity for the Soldiers of the 205th, whose jobs collecting and analyzing intelligence prevent them from getting many opportunities to train in an outside environment, said Florkowski.

With this training, however, those Soldiers got the chance to see — some for the first time — what to expect when an IED explodes beneath their feet.

"This training helped me out a lot," said Spc. Ida Alexander, a supply clerk who has been in the brigade only four months. "I learned how to mount, dismount, react to IEDs, react to insurgents after

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A 205th MI Brigade Soldier portraying an insurgent celebrates after a successful ambush.

an ambush (and) how to deal with civilians and casualties.”

As Soldiers practice and actually participate in these exercises, they feel more confident in themselves, their leaders and units.

“If I didn’t have this training, I would have probably frozen up or run behind something that I wasn’t supposed to and endangered myself and my Soldiers,” said Alexander. “I feel very confident now in myself and my unit that the mission will get done.”

Even though the Soldiers in the convoy suffered casualties, lost equipment and fought a tough battle, they now can reflect on the realistic training, discuss lessons learned and know what can be done if similar, real situations arise.

“Overall they did very well,” said Capt. Michael Eliassen of Company E, 51st Infantry, the brigade’s long-range surveillance unit. “They have done a very good job at listening to tactics and techniques that we taught them and incorporated into their game plans. We feel confident being in convoys with these Soldiers and even sending them out on their own.”

The Soldiers of the 51st role-played as the enemy or “opposing forces” for the exercise, as well as conducting and evaluating the training. This type of training helps those trained and the trainers themselves, 51st members said.

“The most important thing in this exercise is to keep track of my Soldiers and know what’s



A convoy of 205th MI Brigade Soldiers make their way through a crowd of their fellow brigade Soldiers role-playing civilians in a high threat area. The unit was being trained on how to move through a crowded area while ensuring the security of the convoy.



Soldiers move out on a night mission during Victory Challenge at the British training area Normandy Barracks in Sennelager. Photo below: Capt. Marius Price, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 205th MI Brigade, questions a non-hostile civilian being role-played by another brigade Soldier following a simulated ambush.



going on at all times, just in case something happens like this so we can take control of the situation,” said the 51st’s Sgt. Abraham Quintanilla, as he watched a convoy he was getting ready to attack. “This provides an outside view of actual battle. You can see how you will react, and you can tell what the enemy will do. And it

shows us how to react and lets us know what we need to change and what to keep the same.”

Learning lessons about convoys and gaining the confidence to defend them are particularly important because convoy attacks are the leading cause of U.S. Soldier casualties in Iraq.

“In a convoy anything can happen to our teams,” said Florkowski. “Quick reaction forces and support may not be readily available, so we have to be able to defend ourselves. And that is what this training is doing. I am expecting and hoping that this training helps our Soldiers come home safely.”



Peter Lipp, owner of the Bauer Lipp farm near Darmstadt, shows a customer how asparagus is soaked in water before being sorted, cleaned and sold.

Spring sprouts Spargel

Story and photos by
Cassandra Kardeke
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

There are many signs that spring has arrived, but the most prominent in the Wiesbaden area is the sudden appearance of little yellow huts throughout the city that proudly advertise the arrival of spargel season.

Spargel, otherwise known as asparagus, is typically the first harvested crop of the spring season. But unlike in the United States where it is predominantly a green vegetable, Europeans harvest white asparagus.

There are only two months out of the year in which asparagus can be harvested. In Germany, harvest time is April 24 through June 24. After that, asparagus lovers may find themselves paying a higher price or having to wait until the following spring.

“The largest difference be-

tween green and white spargel is all in how it is harvested,” said Andrea Lipp during a tour of her family’s farm near Darmstadt. If the name Lipp rings a bell, it’s due in part to the logo on those yellow huts, “Bauer Lipp.”

So what is the difference between white and green Spargel? Photosynthesis. In the United States asparagus isn’t picked until after the shoot grows above the ground and the sun turns it green, whereas in Germany, asparagus is dug out of the ground before the sun can change its color.

“Green asparagus is not so well-known in Germany,” said Peter Lipp, owner of the Bauer Lipp Farm. According to Lipp, Germans have only recently begun eating green asparagus within the past 20 years. Prior to that, if the vegetable was allowed to turn it was considered not worth eating. Shaking his head, Lipp recalled working on the farm as a child and being instructed by his grandmother to throw out “bad” asparagus.

“If the shoot had already turned green or the tip turned violet we tossed it out because it was considered no good.”

Started by his grandfather in 1922, the Lipp family now harvests one of the largest asparagus crops in this part of Germany with more than 270 acres dedicated to the long-stemmed vegetable. More than 200 workers from Slovakia and Romania travel to the farm each spring to earn extra money harvesting the crop.

“It is not an easy crop to harvest, which is why the white asparagus is more expensive,” said Andrea while showing a group of 20 Americans how to pick the Spargel. After digging through the sand-like dirt to find asparagus stalks, it doesn’t take long to realize just how difficult it can be.

“Sometimes you can get lucky and find one plant with as many as six asparagus growing from it, other times just one,” Andrea said.

After the Spargel is picked, it is cleaned, sorted into cat-

egories and then distributed to grocers and more than 100 of the farm’s vendor booths throughout the area. Throughout the month of May, consumers can find a variety of “spargel specials” at area restaurants or purchase bundles of asparagus to try their own recipes at home.

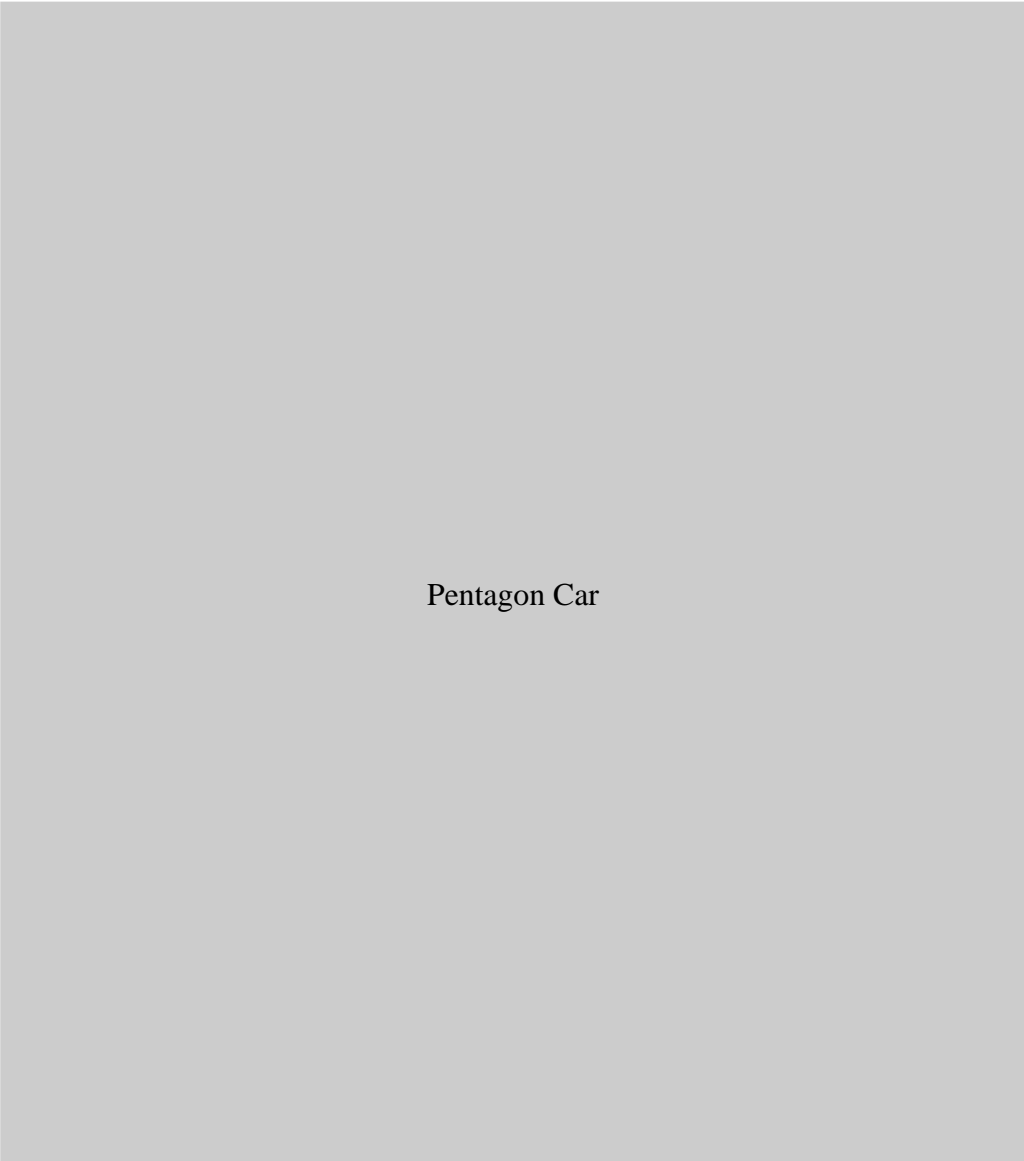
Small or big, thick or thin, according to Lipp, the size of the asparagus makes no difference.

“It’s only a beauty contest,” Lipp said with a smile. “You can use any size for recipes. It doesn’t matter if you use the thick ones or the thin ones for soup, the quality is all the same.”

Anyone wishing to get a taste of different Spargel recipes, visit the farm or even try their hand at picking can contact Bauer Lipp at civ (0615) 130 310 or send email to info@bauer-lipp.de. This year, the farm offers a 66-day Spargel fest in which a variety of dishes are prepared and sold right on the farm from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. With only two weeks left of “spargel season” this is the last chance until next year to enjoy this rare white vegetable.



Raydene Wolney learns how to dig into a Spargel trench to uncover the vegetable for harvesting. Rather than allowing the asparagus to grow above ground and turn green, farmers dig out the vegetable before photosynthesis resulting in the asparagus’ white appearance.



Pentagon Car

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Community news notes

VFW Book drive

The Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 27 sponsors a book drive in June for wounded troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Collection boxes are located throughout the community. Call civ (06146) 60 8480.

Photo studio closed

The Training Support Center's photo studio will be closed June 13-24. No photography services will be available during this time. Customers needing DA or passport photos must make alternative arrangements. Call mil 337-5006 or civ (0611) 705-5006.

Hospital tours

The Wiesbaden Army Airfield Health Clinic has partnered with St. Josef's hospital and the Horst-Schmidt Klinik to offer tours to soon-to-be parents. Tours are held on a weekly basis, Tuesdays at St. Josef's and Thursdays at HSK at 9 a.m. Patients wishing to take part in the tour must meet at the front entrance of their respective hospital. Tours include the emergency room, maternity ward, labor and delivery.

FRG training

Wiesbaden's Army Community Services offers Family Readiness Group workshops throughout the month of June. All classes will be held in Room 22 of Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For registration call mil 335-5754 or civ (0611) 408-0254.

Playhouse musical

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents the zany musical comedy, "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!" June 9-12 and 16-19 at 7:30 p.m. (6 p.m. Sundays). Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the Hainerberg or Wiesbaden Army Airfield USOs or at the playhouse. Call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Clinic hours

The Wiesbaden Army Airfield Health Clinic is now open on training holidays from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m. and every Thursday except for the first one of the month. The pharmacy, laboratory, medical records, Tricare and X-ray are also open during the lunch hours.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the BOSS Center, Building 1052 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Bust-a-ball open

The Bust-a-Ball paintball field in Dexheim is now open every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September. Bring your own gear or sign up for equipment rental onsite. No outside paint is allowed. Call mil 334-5818 or civ (06133) 69 818 or mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

Wunderbar tours

Join Army Family Team Building for weekly bus tours and explore the things to do and places to go around Wiesbaden and Mainz. The talented staff of volunteers will show you how to make the most of local resources, complete with maps and info guides. Tours are from 4-6:30 p.m. starting at the Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation Office, Building 1046 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and cost \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for children. Bring euros for snacks and souvenirs. For more information or to sign up for a tour call mil 335-5754/5400 or civ (0611)

408-0754/0400.

Birthday celebration

Celebrate the 230th birthday of the U.S. Army at the Kastel Club June 14 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Wear Army green and enjoy plenty of free food and cake. For more information call mil 334-2903 or civ (06134) 604 903.

Youth golf clinic

Rheinblick Golf Course offers instruction to juniors every Saturday through October. The next clinic will be held June 11 through July 2 from 10:15-11:45 a.m. for youth age 7-12 and from noon to 1:30 p.m. for youth age 13-15. To sign up or for more information call mil 336-2816 or civ (0611) 420 675.

Lunch buffets

The Rheinlander Club in Dexheim hosts an End of School lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 18 and a barbecue lunch buffet July 14. Stop by for a delicious, home-cooked lunch.

Bowling news

The Wiesbaden Bowling Center hosts a 9-pin no-tap bowling tournament June 10 from 4-9 p.m. Entry fee is \$10. To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5654 or civ (0611) 705-5654. Soldiers bowl for 50 cents per game with a free shoe rental June 15 and dads bowl free all day June 19. Bowl

for \$1 from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday during the month of July. Games are limited to three per person. Bring an operational camera June 29 for National Camera Day and bowl for 50 cents with a free shoe rental at the Dexheim Bowling Center.

Adult golf clinic

Looking to improve your putting, chipping or pitching? The Rheinblick Golf Course offers a specialized golf clinic for adults on Saturday from 2-3:30 p.m. June 18 to July 2. The clinic is open to golfers 15 and over.

Summer reading

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community libraries offer a summer reading program for youth. Registration begins June 27. Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds is open to youth age 4-9. The six-week program meets each Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the Dexheim library and from 10:15-11:15 a.m. every Wednesday at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield library. Activities include crafts and field trips. Joust Read, for youth age 10-14, meet at the Wiesbaden library each Friday from 10-11 a.m. Activities include an internet scavenger hunt and a mystery night. For more information call mil 337-1740 or civ (0611) 705-1740 and in Dexheim, mil 334-5210 or civ (06133) 69-210.

Game show night

Come on down — you're the next contestant for game show nights at the Community Activity Center. Upcoming events include Card and Board Game Trivia June 18, Family Challenge July 16, Name That Song Aug. 20. Game Show Nights start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 adult/\$1 children. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Thrift Shop open

The Wiesbaden Community Thrift Shop is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month. Consignments are accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call civ (0611) 74261.

Camp registration

Team 221st Child and Youth Services hosts a nine-week summer camp through its School-Age Services program. Camp begins June 20. Parents can enroll their child for the entire program or in two-week increments. For more information call mil 335-5391 or civ (0611) 408-0391.

Quiet hours

Remember in Germany, quiet hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and all day Sunday and German holidays. The use of lawn machinery or playing of loud music is prohibited from 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. and after 5 p.m. Be a courteous neighbor.



Autohaus Hollman

USAG Baumholder

June trips

Outdoor Recreation has scheduled a variety of trips during June. Call them at mil 485-7182 or civ (06783) 67182 for more details. Trips include:

● June 16, 23 sea kayaking, Bosen Lake, adults \$35, maximum eight persons, each participant must know how to swim

● June 25 kayaking, Sauer River, adults \$55

● June 11 evening boat cruise, Mosel River

● June 12 Rhein Valley boat and castle tour, adults \$65, children \$30

● June 17-19 white water rafting, Switzerland, adults \$265

● June 18 Six Flags Holland, adults \$90, children \$45

● June 19 Legoland Germany, adults \$85, children \$40

● June 25 Six Flags Belgium, adults \$90, children \$45

● June 26 Bernkastel-Kues and evening boat cruise, adults \$65, children \$45

● Paintball at Rolling Hills Campgrounds is offered June 12, 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$12 rental and \$9 field fee (using own gear). Paintballs are available for sale at the field.

Host nation events

The following events are scheduled in Baumholder and the surrounding communities:

● June 10-12 Hutmacherfest at Kusel

● June 12 flea market, Idar-Oberstein, Vollmersbachstrasse

● June 18 Mixery Castle, Thallichtenberg

Happenings



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Lovely Hula Hands

The Island Dancers perform Polynesian cultural dances at the Wagon Wheel Theater May 20 in celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

● June 18-19 Fisher Fest, Baumholder Lake

● June 24 Lindenfest at Baumholder, 6 p.m.

● June 24-28 Spiessbraten fest at Idar-Oberstein.

Hours of operation

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop is closed on Wednesdays, U.S. Army Europe training holidays and federal holidays.

Education update

● An eArmyu briefing is offered every Thursday at the Education Center in Building 8332. Call mil 485-7557.

● The University of Oklahoma representative visits Baumholder on the first Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The school may be reached at mil 480-6807 daily.

● The University of Phoenix representative visits Baumholder on the first Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The representative may be

reached at Ramstein daily at mil 480-8993.

● Basic skills courses are offered every month at the Baumholder Army Education Center. Call the education center at mil 485-7557.

Youth Services

Youth Services offers the following events and trips in June:

● June 18, middle school out of school barbecue at the Underground for sixth-through 12th-grade students, 3-6 p.m., no cost

● June 18, summer kickoff

cook out at the Teen Cafe for ninth- through 12th-grade students, 5-9 p.m., no cost

● June 23, trip to Skate Park in St. Wendel sixth through eighth-grade students, noon to 5 p.m., cost is \$5 plus euros for spending money

● June 23, teen field trip to Wiesbaden Teen Center for ninth- through 12th-grade students, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., no cost, bring some spending money

● June 25, trip to Europa Park in Rust for sixth- through 12th-grade students, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., cost is \$35 plus spending money

● June 29, swimming at Monte Mare Pool in Kaiserslautern for sixth-through 12th-grade students, noon to 6 p.m., cost is \$10 plus euros spending money

Contact your local youth center or call Youth Services at mil 485-7276.

Chapel news

❖ St. Michael's Chapel located at Building 8249 on Smith Barracks hosts the **Catholic Women of the Chapel** Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

❖ The Chapel Activities Center in Building 8217 features a **Catholic History Class**, Thursdays at 5 p.m. **Protestant Women of the Chapel** meet there Mondays from 6-8 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. **Protestant Youth of the Chapel** sixth- to eighth-graders meet there Tuesdays from 5-6:45 p.m. and ninth- to 12th-graders meet there Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Yale singers are cat's meow

The Yale Alley Cats perform at the Baumholder Brühlhalle May 17. The two-hour concert led to a standing ovation from the audience which included members of the German and American communities. A highlight of the evening was participation by Matthew Ubben, a Yale graduate, former Alley Cat and member of the Baumholder community.

Baumholder Days are here

The annual Baumholder Days celebration that brings the entire community together for one big midyear bash is scheduled for June 9-12. Opening day features amusement rides and concessions from 3-10 p.m.

The party continues June 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next morning with amusement rides and concessions. A live AFN remote will be held at 3 p.m. In the fest tent enjoy music with a disc jockey and live entertainment, "Genuine

Men," from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be contests and giveaways throughout the evening.

On June 11 the fest opens again from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next morning with amusement rides and concessions continuing throughout the day. Fest goers can participate in the jalapeno-eating contest, pie-eating contest or the door prize giveaways. On stage in the fest tent will be live entertainment with "King Cotton," 5-7 p.m. and again from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Baumholder Boxing Invi-

tational is set for 7-9 p.m. in the Hall of Champions.

The doors open from 1 p.m. to midnight on the closing day, June 12. This is a half price family day with discounted tickets for amusement rides from 2-6 p.m. The Harley Rally and Best Bike Competition is from 3-4 p.m. at the fest tent. Live entertainment "Malet" will be the closing act from 7-10 p.m. in the fest tent.

The fest ends with fireworks at 10:30 p.m.

USAG Baumholder

WWII veterans share stories

German and American service members build a friendship 60 years later

By **LeAnne MacAllister**
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

Language barriers, living across an ocean and fighting on opposing sides during World War II seemingly provide ample reason to avoid conversation.

But when the opportunity to spend an afternoon together was offered to Otto Roehrig and Mason "Mickey" Dorsey, the invitation brought forth the feeling of a family reunion.

Dorsey was a radio operator, gunner

and car commander for the 71st Infantry Division during World War II. He fought the German Army in France and ended the war by liberating Gunskirchen Lager Concentration Camp.

Roehrig, who served in the German Air Force, fought near Moscow. When the Germans were pushed out of Russia, he found himself heading back to Berlin — on foot.

Although their stories differ dramatically, many veterans share a common bond built out of the understanding of the

pains of war. "Time brings us closer.

"We were all Soldiers, doing what we were told to do. It was a similar experience for both of us," said Roehrig. "Years ago the post-war feelings may have been a little different, but now Germans realize that we were liberated. We thank Americans for bringing us democracy."

Dorsey said that within weeks of the war's end, he felt welcomed by Germans. Though his unit was preparing to return to the United States, he felt at home in the nation he had just finished fighting against.

"It's hard to believe 60 years ago we could have had to shoot each other because of that one bad leader. If it weren't for Hitler, we would have been friends all along," Dorsey said as he embraced his new friend.

Soon, Roehrig and Dorsey were singing World War II era military songs together, pleased with the knowledge that even in the middle of war, both sides shared a common appreciation for the other's music.

The veterans swapped stories and discussed the transitions they have seen in the military since the 1940s. With the new technology and intelligent weapons systems currently being used in battle, they believe that war today is far more dangerous for Soldiers.

Whether discussing the Global War

on Terrorism, Vietnam or World War II, Dorsey and Roehrig shared a similar desire to encourage the younger generations to reflect on holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day and their significance.

"I feel very lucky," said Dorsey. "A panzerfaust missile missed killing me by inches. I'm sitting here today remembering that if it had hit an inch to the right, I wouldn't have any children or grandchildren right now. I call that a miracle. I'll never forget my friends and comrades who weren't as lucky, and I give thanks to them on Memorial Day."

Roehrig said these holidays mean more to Soldiers and the military community because they better understand the sacrifices of veterans, but the civilian world should pay tribute, too.

"The public needs to realize how much they owe their veterans. Just imagine, if it weren't for veterans, there may not have been democracy in the world," said Dorsey.

As allied nations continue to work toward a democratic world, one last point was made clear by the veterans.

"It's been 60 years since the end of World War II, and the world is better because of what we did years ago," said Dorsey.

Roehrig agreed, "The world is a much better place today."



Otto Roehrig and Mason "Mickey" Dorsey examine a World War II photograph that elicits memories for both veterans.

Save on imported vehicles tax

Americans stationed overseas for at least 140 days may import vehicles to the United States duty-free. You must take physical possession of the vehicle before shipment, have valid movement orders and import it for personal use.

"Most people who encounter problems fail to take physical possession of the vehicle before its shipment," said Michael L. Burkert, director of the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

"They have a car shipped directly from the factory and risk having to pay import duty as a result," he added.

Registering a vehicle is the most common way of

demonstrating possession. When not possible, however, you can also prove possession simply by putting a copy of your movement orders in the glove compartment.

Second, you must have a set of official change of station orders in hand before shipping a vehicle. People on extended leave or temporary duty are not entitled to the exemption.

Third, the vehicle must be for your personal use or for use by immediate family members. "If you had six dependents of driving age," Burkert explained, "you could justify importing seven vehicles duty-free; one for each of them and one for yourself."

However, it is illegal to use the exemption to import ve-

hicles for third parties or in order to sell them.

People importing vehicles as part of a PCS are saving federal duties and taxes, but must realize that state taxes on imported vehicles can be high. Information on state taxes can be obtained from the state department of motor vehicles.

Internet links to state DMVs can be found at <http://rmv.hqusa.army.mil/newdmvs.htm>.

Call a military customs office to find out more about federal customs exemptions or your local transportation office to learn about shipping rules, policies and procedures in sending cars back to the United States.

Army mandates computer training

The Army has established a directive requiring all computer-users Army-wide to complete information assurance training by June 4, 2005.

If you have not done so already, you can satisfy the IA training requirement by logging onto the Army e-Learning Program.

Army e-Learning helps streamline the process for fulfilling IA training, and testing results are immediately reflected in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System. In addition, the Army e-Learning program provides every active duty Soldier access to more than 2,000 Web-based IT, business, leadership and personal development courses from anywhere in the world over the Internet.

For information on access

to Army e-Learning, log onto www.us.army.mil; My Education; Army e-Learning portal page. Or you can access Army e-Learning at <http://usarmy.skillport>. An AKO account is required for access.

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New One Page Ad

USAG Baumholder

Endeavor builds bridge to communication

Story and photos By
LeAnne MacAllister

*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

Imagine receiving an assignment to work with Romanian and Italian soldiers in Afghanistan.

Upon first encounter, you realize you need to find a common language or way to communicate. You also need to implement a system to continue communication when completing your mission. You do not have enough manpower or time to continually be by each other's side.

A translator could help, but if three of you are walking in opposite directions, the translator could not assist the three of you at the same time.

Radio communication could help, but what if each country had its own system that was incompatible with the others?

You could share your own country's equipment, but you would have to find yet another Soldier from your country to escort the others while they use the equipment.

Enter Combined Endeavor.

We live in an allied world with U.S. Soldiers working side by side with soldiers from across the globe every day. Allied forces must be trained and



Sgt. Jochen Bendel tests communication capabilities in one of hundreds of exercises carried out at Camp Aulendorf.

ready to work together.

A total of 43 nations brought their talent and technology together at Camp Aulendorf May 13-26 for the 11th U.S. European Command-sponsored Combined Endeavor exercise. Romania and Germany served as hosts for the week.

Combined Endeavor was the final execution of a year of exercise preparation. Countries

worked together to test and improve communications equipment and ultimately prepare for partnership work that could arise in any part of the world.

"It is the farthest reaching security effort of its kind," said Lt. Col. Joseph Angyal. "Concepts tested and learned here improved our ability to work together in the war on terror,

emergency situations such as the tsunami, and others."

Over the last 11 years, 15,000 tests have been conducted between various nations to improve communications. Each nation has complete access to this database in order to use these experiences and reference knowledge gained at Combined Endeavor.

Tests are chosen by the participating nations. All are optional, and partnerships can be selected based on national alliances or desires to build relationships. Countries can also refuse suggested exercises or adapt them to suit their needs.

"This is a brilliant exercise. To get all these countries to work together effectively and efficiently, it's brilliant. It is a major step to getting the world to work together for a better future. After all, if we can't communicate, we're lost," said Capt. Charlene Basson, participant from South Africa.

"I've been in many joint multinational exercises and this is the biggest I've seen," said Staff Sgt. Edwin Sleuth, 44th Signal Battalion, U.S. Army.

"Stuff has dramatically

changed with the transition to broad band in the military. Smaller units tend to get the new equipment first so we can use these opportunities to see what we can do together and pass that information along to bigger units," said Sleuth.

Many nations agreed that Combined Endeavor is incorporated into the decision making process for their countries' equipment acquisition plans. The exercise gives countries an opportunity to see what they want and what is possible, based on their size and their needs.

"Not one nation has the best of everything, and sometimes economies of scale come into play. Do you need 30 or 3000? We can all learn from each other," said Angyal.

In walking through the various country camps at Camp Aulendorf, one gets the impression that the world is starting to speak the same language through these exercises.

That is, if you understand the language of technologically advanced communications.

"You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us," said Angyal.



Combined Endeavor participants fly their nations' flags over their work stations and tents.